



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 14, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: July 13, 2003
CWP WA-CW2803

Dry Conditions Continue to Negatively Impact Palouse Crops Potatoes in Columbia Basin Sizing Well

Field Crops

Across the Palouse, dry conditions continued to negatively impact crops. Heads of some spring grains were not filling, reducing yield expectations for spring crops. Expectations for good winter wheat yields remain, with harvest to begin soon. Potatoes in the Columbia Basin were reported to be sizing well. In the west, non-irrigated potatoes were weak, stunted, and wilting. Christmas tree growers reported mortality on tree seedlings due to dry conditions.

Livestock

Some livestock producers in western Washington were feeding hay due to the lack of available forage on dried up pastures. Pastures in the central and eastern regions also had reports of little soil moisture remaining. Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 15% poor, 49% fair, and 34% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

Vegetable crops were in full production in Kitsap County with great growing conditions. In the west, harvest was underway on greenhouse tomatoes, green peas, raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, lettuce, and onions. Cherry harvest in Benton County was nearly complete while apricot and peach harvest began. Other crops being harvested included mint, potatoes, carrots, alfalfa, and sweet corn.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	27	40	33	0
Subsoil	6	35	59	0
Irrigation Water	0	7	93	0
Hay & Roughage	1	2	88	9

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	100	99	100	98
Winter Wheat Harvested	3	1	2	3
Barley Headed	100	98	100	99
Potatoes Harvested	7	3	14	6
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	70	40	83	78
Dry Peas Harvested	1	0	2	1
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	100	98	100	100
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	78	58	63	74

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	3	9	28	45	15
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	11	80	9
Spring Wheat Dryland	5	15	54	24	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	10	90	0
Barley Dryland	4	14	42	35	5
Barley Irrigated	0	0	5	95	0
Potatoes	0	0	4	68	28
Corn	0	0	3	96	1
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	3	62	35

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: The rural landscape remained enormously dry despite the arrival of rain showers on Sunday. Ag producers continued to irrigate sweet corn, raspberry, and blueberry fields. Christmas tree growers reported mortality on tree seedlings planted this year due to the extended drought. Direct market farms reported excellent sales of produce and raspberries. Some livestock producers were feeding hay due to the lack of available forage on dried up pastures. Greenhouse tomato growers reported excellent yields and flavor quality due to increased heat units during the past several weeks. Fire danger remained extremely high due to the "kinder dry" conditions throughout the county.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: The week began with cool weather and drizzle. The precipitation had no real impact on the drought and did not do much to hinder haying. The week ended with above normal temperatures. Where irrigation was adequate, corn was thriving on the warm weather.

Kitsap: Vegetable crops were in full production with great growing conditions. Small fruits and vegetables were on schedule due to adequate moisture and 70-80 degree temperatures. Thursday was the hottest day in the region with 80+ degrees.

Pierce/South King: The weather was good for the area. The crops received a little rain and the temperature was mild. There were no unusual weather situations to report and no reports of crop damage.

Skagit: Harvest began on peas, raspberries, and blueberries. Strawberry quality and yields were excellent; however, some fields had high levels of catfacing. It has now been 30 days

without measurable precipitation, with a total rainfall of 1.04" since April 24, according to records at WSU Mount Vernon Research Unit. Temperatures during the week were in the 70's and 80's. Non-irrigated potatoes were weak, stunted, and wilting. Non-irrigated corn was lacking in growth. Seed heads will probably not fill in some spinach fields. Many fields were weedy due to ineffectiveness of herbicides in dry soils. Irrigated fields, such as berries and some cucumbers and potatoes were looking very nice.

Snohomish/North King: The weather was dry most of the week with scattered rain showers at week's end. Pastures and crops were in need of a good soaking. The weather was great for haying. Raspberry harvest continued. Potatoes and corn were growing well. Apples were sizing up nicely.

Thurston: Drought conditions continued to prevail throughout the county. Virtually all ag producers were jubilant with the arrival of rain showers on Sunday, which helped to dampen extremely dry conditions. Unfortunately, soil moisture was so low, the showers had very limited, if any, value in increasing soil moisture levels. Christmas tree growers were top working Noble fir and spot spraying Canada thistle infestations. Blueberry growers were scheduled to begin harvest on Monday, with a lighter than normal yield predicted for this year's crop. The strawberry harvest was complete. Organic truck gardeners continued to report excellent sales of fresh vegetables at the Olympia Farmer's Market. Home gardeners were harvesting green peas, lettuce, onions and radishes.

Whatcom: Raspberry harvest was in full swing. Some rain was received on Saturday and Sunday.

Central

Benton: The cherry harvest was nearly complete. Apricot and peach harvest began. Hot temperatures were making high demands on irrigation water. Summer vegetables were beginning to be harvested. Mint was being cut.

Franklin: Warm temperatures continued. Cherries and apricots were being picked. Winter wheat harvest was underway. Onions were being harvested. Early potatoes and carrots were being dug. The second cutting of alfalfa was complete. Some Mormon crickets have begun to appear.

Grant: Sweet corn harvest began. Mint harvest was underway. Cherry harvest continued.

Kittitas: Very little soil moisture remained on range and

dryland pastures. With hot, dry weather, most non-irrigated pastures were drying up rapidly.

Okanogan/Ferry: The second cutting of alfalfa hay was underway. Pasture conditions remained fair to good.

Yakima: Extremely hot weather the past week forced growers to take measures to prevent sunburn on their apple crop. This week's cooler weather promises to be ideal for fruit growth. Growers continued to harvest a superb crop of apricots.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 12 degrees above normal to 1 degree below normal with no precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions reported.

Eastern

Adams: The wheat harvest begin in the earliest portions of the county, while harvest of irrigated bluegrass seed drew to a close. Potatoes were reported to be sizing well.

Asotin/Garfield: Continued hot, dry weather was detrimental to crops. There were many concerns about whether grain crops were filling properly. Quality may be a problem as kernels will be pinched and shriveled. Harvest just began in the lower elevations. Pasture and rangeland conditions have deteriorated due to the dry weather. Grass seed crops were hurt by dry weather in June and early July. Some producers had problems with wind damage after the grass was swathed. Hay crops have been good as most attained their growth prior to the drought conditions affecting production.

Douglas/Chelan: Cherry harvest was drawing to a close. The crop has been above average in this area. Winter wheat continued to mature and harvest was expected to begin next week in some areas.

Stevens: The weather was extremely hot and dry. Crops and pastures began to show signs of stress. High winds most of the

week, hampered fire fighting efforts and swept away what little moisture was left.

Walla Walla: Hot, dry and windy conditions rapidly ripened all crops. Winter wheat appeared in good condition; however, spring crops were stressed. Pastures were getting short.

Whitman: Dry conditions continued to negatively impact crops. Heads of some spring grains were simply not filling, with fusarium taking a toll on stressed spring grains. The expectation for reasonably good winter wheat yields remain, but yield expectations for spring crops continued to diminish. Winter wheat harvest should begin at the western edge of the county in a week or so and progress eastward.

Whitman (2nd Report): Wheat harvest will begin by mid-week in western parts of the county. Hard white winter wheat was ripe and ready for harvest west of St. John. The hot, dry weather was stressing the spring crops, especially the late seedings. The cool nights have done wonders for helping the crops, but they seem to be coming to an end with lows in the 60's most of the week.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

July 14, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	51	76	64	3	98	15	28	9	0.51	0.20	2	25.92	-8.13	76	144
Everett	51	80	64	3	102	16	32	11	0.01	-0.27	1	24.46	-9.95	71	142
Hoquiam	51	79	62	3	86	16	19	12	0.17	-0.12	2	60.41	-5.32	92	157
Kelso	52	86	67	4	118	26	48	20	0.08	-0.14	2	23.65	-20.89	53	104
Olympia	45	83	64	2	100	14	30	9	0.06	-0.15	1	36.79	-12.11	75	146
Sea-Tac	52	80	65	0	108	4	38	3	0.02	-0.17	1	31.23	-4.45	88	139
Shelton	45	83	65	1	106	6	36	1	0.05	-0.17	1	54.35	-8.80	86	143
Tacoma	46	82	65	0	104	6	34	3	0.05	-0.16	1	26.48	-12.04	69	128
Vancouver	53	87	70	6	138	39	68	36	0.00	-0.21	0	34.22	-5.45	86	136
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	44	99	71	4	146	23	76	21	0.00	-0.07	0	7.90	-0.52	94	80
Omak	49	97	74	8	173	55	103	52	0.00	-0.14	0	11.82	-1.78	87	61
Stampede Pass	43	74	58	4	57	21	9	5	0.21	-0.13	2	58.74	-19.57	75	146
Wenatchee	55	99	76	4	184	25	114	25	0.03	-0.04	1	8.86	1.09	114	73
Yakima AP	47	100	74	5	167	31	97	31	0.00	-0.05	0	7.98	0.46	106	58
NORTHEAST															
Colville	49	96	72	7	158	46	88	44	0.00	-0.21	0	17.33	-2.32	88	73
Deer Park	40	96	68	2	129	0	59	-1	0.03	-0.18	1	20.24	2.93	117	96
Spokane AP	49	96	72	4	157	30	87	29	0.00	-0.14	0	14.90	-0.51	97	100
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	48	99	75	1	178	7	108	7	0.00	-0.07	0	7.56	0.78	112	54
Moses Lake	51	98	75	1	173	2	103	2	0.00	-0.07	0	7.87	1.09	116	72
Quincy	51	98	73	3	164	21	94	21	0.00	-0.07	0	6.13	-1.20	84	51
Ritzville	49	98	72	5	159	30	89	28	0.00	-0.10	0	11.14	0.44	104	82
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	52	104	78	2	201	12	131	12	0.00	-0.01	0	8.00	1.92	132	67
Pasco	49	102	77	3	190	21	120	20	0.00	-0.01	0	7.08	0.06	101	71
Pullman	44	93	68	4	128	26	58	22	0.09	-0.09	1	9.71	-10.11	49	88
Whitman Miss.	47	101	74	4	169	25	99	25	0.00	-0.10	0	14.32	1.44	111	114
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	46	95	70	2	140	11	70	9	0.00	-0.21	0	18.23	-5.94	75	100
Lewiston ID	57	101	78	5	196	31	126	31	0.31	0.17	1	12.67	1.38	112	110

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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